

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 23, 2007 was received and carefully reviewed. By this amendment, the instant application should now be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 11-56 were pending prior to the instant amendment. Claims 1, 11, 17 and 52 are amended herein, and claims 43-45 are cancelled. As a result, claims 1-3, 11-42 and 46-56 are currently pending in the instant application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner allowance of claims 23-32, 36, 37, 41, 42, 49-51 and 53-56, and the objection to claims 43-45 as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. In order to overcome this rejection, claim 52 is amended to cancel the recitation of "iridium" therein. As a result, claim 52 should likewise be considered allowable.

Claims 1-3, 11-16, 33, 34, 38, 39, 46, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0034656 A1, hereinafter Thompson). Claims 17-22, 35, 40 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson, as applied to claims 1-3, 11-16, 33-34 and 38-39, and further in view of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0050373 A1) or Kamatani et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0059646 A1).

In order to overcome this rejection and expedite prosecution, Applicants amend claims 1, 11, and 17 to include the limitations of allowed claims 43-45, respectively. Consequently, claims 43-45 are cancelled. As a result, this rejection should be overcome, and claims 1-3, 11-22, 33-35, 38-40, 46-48 considered allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that the currently pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

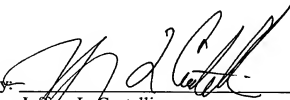
If a conference would expedite prosecution and issuance of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 585-8000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 22, 2007

By



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